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Exploration in New Guinea. — This great island offers one of the most promising fields at present open to the explorer, as its interior is still an absolute *terra incognita*. The ill success of Mr. Macleay's attempt to penetrate the interior by way of Fly River, was due to the unfavorable season of the year. Mr. O. C. Stone has been more successful, as he ascended the Mai-Kassa River, discovered and named by him the Baxter River, in the cooler season. The banks are sparsely populated, the natives being cannibalistic at times in their tastes. In his account of his adventures in the Ellengowan, a steamer of eighty tons, he describes the dugong, kangaroos, Megapodius (one of the nests of these fowl being ten feet high by ninety in circumference), birds-of-paradise, large snakes, and the vegetation of the shores. To the naturalist and botanist the shores of the Baxter River present features of rare interest when we take into consideration the comparative immunity from danger, combined with the ease with which they may be approached, both being considerations of no small importance. That the southern part of New Guinea is either cut up into a series of islands, or intersected by rivers and streams of considerable length, is beyond doubt.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held May 8th, Mr. Stone read a paper on The Country and Natives of Port Moresby, New Guinea, and a paper on The Natives and Products of Fly River, New Guinea, by Signor L. M. D'Albertis. Sir Henry Rawlinson hoped that a " Cameron " for New Guinea would soon turn up, and that Mr. Young would be the coming explorer, and would force himself into the large and comparatively unknown regions of New Guinea.

MICROSCOPY.[1]

Polarization of Living Tissues. — A correspondent of *Science Gossip* has recently noticed that the tissues of a living shrimp are affected by the polariscope, giving most beautiful colors, which cannot be obtained by using the flesh after it has been boiled, and he desires to know whether any one else has observed this. Rev. E. C. Bolles, of Salem, Mass., has been accustomed for years, in his popular lectures on the microscope, to demonstrate this by exhibiting upon the screen small crustaceans or aquatic larvæ, illuminated by polarized light; and a finer screen-effect can hardly be conceived than the flashes of color that play over the large and well-defined image of the muscular fibres at every contraction connected with the movements of the living animal.

Arranging Diatoms. — Dr. G. C. Morris, of Philadelphia, arranges diatoms with facility and success, by using the mechanical stage as a means of holding and moving the bristle which handles the diatoms, while the sub-stage prolonged upwards (through the opening of the regular stage) by means of a tube, serves as a stage to hold the object slide. An arm, attached by means of a socket to the stage, carries a small cork, through which is passed a needle, and the bristle is fastened to this needle in such a manner as to project about a quarter of an inch beyond its point. With this arrangement the objective can be readily focused upon the bristle-point, which can then be moved in any horizontal direction, while the object can be brought up to focus, or depressed below it, by means of the rack of the sub-stage.

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[1] Conducted by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.

A COMPACT COLLECTING CASE. — Mr. Kinne recommends the small leather pocket-cases used by physicians, as being convenient collecting cases, when only small quantities of microscopic objects are to be obtained.

WYTHE'S AMPLIFIERS. — Rev. J. H. Wythe, M. D., reported his experiments with amplifiers, at a recent meeting of the San Francisco Microscopical Society. Believing that late improvements in objectives had rendered it unreasonable to expect greater perfection in them than their present excellence furnishes (a conclusion which we can mention only under protest), he was led to look for future progress mainly in the eye-piece, or in intermediate arrangements of lenses. Having had no opportunity to use or examine the "amplifiers" mentioned in the journals, or the aplanatic searcher of Dr. Pigott, which is often used for a similar purpose, he had experimented independently upon the subject during the last two or three years. He arranged a strongly-magnifying eye-piece, consisting of a deep convex meniscus, in place of the ordinary field lens of the Huyghenian eye-piece, with good results. Afterwards he placed the amplifying lens below an ordinary negative eye-piece, using first a cylindrical lens of conical shape, with the lower and smaller end concave and the upper and larger end convex, and subsequently a double concave lens of 1½ inches virtual focus. This last arrangement was most satisfactory, and seems to correspond somewhat to amplifiers used in the Eastern States. It is described, however, as increasing the amplification from four to eight times with such unqualifiedly good results in respect to light and definition, as have not been obtained by similar contrivances heretofore.

MICROSCOPY. — Mr. F. Kitton, an accomplished contributor to *Science Gossip*, objects strenuously to the terms microscopy and microscopist. He argues that there is no such science as microscopy, because its objects of study belong to zoölogy, botany, etc. Precisely the same statement might be made in regard to anatomy, physiology, and to histology, which he mentions in the same sentence without protest. All of these terms are too convenient to die, and the "microscopy" of *Science Gossip* itself is too good to be suppressed or dispersed by suicidal theories in regard to its name. Even as a word, microscopist is no worse than pianist or organist, and microscopy is as good as thermometry.